AMENDMENTS

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicants' claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("——") or double brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A media content recording system in a subscriber network television system, comprising:

    a memory for storing logic;

    a storage device comprising a buffer space for continuously buffering media content instances, the buffer space comprising at any one instance of time plural media content instances corresponding to different video programs; and

    a processor configured with the logic to represent each of the media content instances in the buffer space as a respective management file stored in the memory, the management file comprising a data structure that includes information identifying a corresponding media content instance of the media content instances, the information including media guide scheduled start and end times.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to represent the media content instance in the buffer space with the corresponding management file in the memory, wherein the logic is further configured to track the duration of the buffered media content instance.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the duration of the media content instance corresponds to hard disk space.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the duration of the media content instance corresponds to a real-time playback duration.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to receive media content information from a remote server, wherein the media content information comprises a scheduled media content instance start time and a scheduled media content instance end time.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to track when the buffering of the media content instance starts.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to determine the media content instance duration by subtracting the media content instance buffering start time from the scheduled media content instance end time.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to configure the data structure to include media content instance guide data, a buffering start time, an active playback location within the media content instance in the buffer space, a status flag, and a media content instance file name.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to organize a plurality of management files as a linked list of the management files comprising the locations of data for said files and locations to a previously created management file and to a subsequently created management file.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to organize a plurality of management files as a linked list of pointers to the management files.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to use and store the scheduled stop time of a media content instance from media content instance guide data to determine when to close the management file for said ended media content instance and open a new management file for the next media content instance to be downloaded to the buffer space.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to use the receipt time of a media content instance into the buffer space by using the start time as indicated by an internal clock.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to configure each of the media content instances as media content instance files, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to identify each of the media content instance files by file names.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to randomly generate the file names of each of the media content instance files.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to generate the media content instance file names using the media content instance guide data.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein each of the media content instance file names include channel number, media content instance title, and the source of the media content instance.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer analog broadcast media content instances, received at a communications interface, as digitally compressed media content instances.

18. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer an analog signal received at a connector from a consumer electronics device, as a digitally compressed media content instance.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital broadcast media content instances, received at a communications interface, as digitally compressed media content instances.

20. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital media-on-demand media content instances, received at a communications interface from a remote server, as digitally compressed media content instances.

21. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital media content instances, received at a digital communications port from a local network, as digitally compressed media content instances.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital media content instances, received at a digital communications port from a local device, as digitally compressed media content instances.

23. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to maintain a status flag in the management file wherein the status flag is configured as temporary for a buffered media content instance that is not designated for permanent recording.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to configure the status flag of the management file for a buffered media content instance as permanent when the user requests that said media content instance be permanently recorded, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to cause the permanently recorded media content instance to have a permanent designation in a file allocation table in response to having status flag of the corresponding management file configured as permanent, such that the buffer space storing the permanently recorded media content instance becomes designated as non-buffer space.

25. (Original) A media content recording system in a subscriber network television system, comprising:

a memory for storing logic;

a storage device comprising a buffer space for continuously buffering media content instances; and

a processor configured with the logic to buffer media content instances into the buffer space, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to represent the media content instances in the buffer space as a linked list of management files in the memory, wherein the logic is further configured to track the duration of the buffered media content instance, wherein the duration of the media content instance corresponds to hard disk space, wherein the management files comprise the locations of data for said files and locations to a previously created management file and to a subsequently created management file, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to configure each of the management

files as a data structure that includes media content instance guide data,

a buffering start time, an active playback location within the media

content instance in the buffer space, a status flag, and a media content

instance file name, wherein the processor is further configured with the

logic to use and store the scheduled stop time of each of the media

content instances from the media content instance guide data to

determine when to close the management file for an ended media

content instance and open a new management file for a next media

content instance to be downloaded to the buffer space, wherein the

processor is further configured with the logic to receive media content

information from a remote server, wherein the media content information

comprises a scheduled media content instance start time and a

scheduled media content instance end time, wherein the processor is

further configured with the logic to track when the buffering of the media

content instance starts, wherein the processor is further configured with

the logic to determine the media content instance duration by subtracting

the media content instance buffering start time from the scheduled media

content instance end time, wherein the processor is further configured

with the logic to organize a plurality of management files as a linked list of

the management files comprising the locations of data for said files and

locations to a previously created management file and to a subsequently

created management file, wherein the processor is further configured

with the logic to use the receipt time of a media content instance into the

buffer space by using the start time as indicated by an internal clock,

wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to configure the

media content instances as media content instance files, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to identify the media content instance files by file names, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to generate the media content instance file names using the media content instance guide data, wherein each of the media content instance file names include channel number, media content instance title, and the source of the media content instance, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to access the media content instances by the media content instance file names, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer analog broadcast media content instances, received at a communications interface, as digitally compressed media content instances, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer an analog signal received at a connector from a consumer electronics device, as a digitally compressed media content instance, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital broadcast media content instances, received at a communications interface, as digitally compressed media content instances, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital media-on-demand media content instances, received at a communications interface from a remote server, as digitally compressed media content instances, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital media content instances, received at a digital communications port from a local network, as digitally compressed media content instances, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to buffer digital media content instances, received at a digital

communications port from a local device, as digitally compressed media content instances, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to maintain the status flag in the management file wherein the status flag is configured as temporary for a buffered media content instance that is not designated for permanent recording, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to configure the status flag of the management file for a buffered media content instance as permanent when the user requests that said media content instance be permanently recorded, wherein the processor is further configured with the logic to cause the permanently recorded media content instance to have a permanent designation in a file allocation table in response to having the status flag of the corresponding management file configured as permanent, such that the buffer space storing the permanently recorded media content instance becomes designated as non-buffer space.

26. (Currently amended) A media content recording method in a subscriber network television system, comprising the steps of:

buffering media content instances into a buffer space, the buffer space comprising at any one instance of time plural media content instances corresponding to different video programs; and

representing each of the buffered media content instances as a management file in a memory separate from the buffer space.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of tracking the duration of each of the buffered media content instances.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the duration of each of the media content instances corresponds to hard disk space.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the duration of each of the media content instances corresponds to a real-time playback duration.

30. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of receiving media content information from a remote server, wherein the media content information comprises a scheduled media content instance start time and a scheduled media content instance end time.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of tracking when the buffering of the media content instance starts.

32. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of determining the media content instance duration by subtracting the media content instance buffering start time from the scheduled media content instance end time.

33. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of configuring the management file as a data structure that includes media content instance guide data, a buffering start time, an active playback location within the media content instance in the buffer space, a status flag, and a media content instance file name.

34. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of organizing a

plurality of management files as a linked list of the management files comprising the locations of data for said files and locations to a previously created management file and to a subsequently created management file.

35. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of organizing a plurality of management files as a linked list of pointers to the management files.

36. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of using and storing the scheduled stop time of a media content instance from media content instance guide data to determine when to close the management file for said ended media content instance and open a new management file for the next media content instance to be downloaded to the buffer space.

37. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of using the receipt time of a media content instance into the buffer space by using the start time as indicated by an internal clock.

38. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of configuring each of the media content instances as media content instance files, and identifying each of the media content instance files by file names.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of randomly generating the file names of each of the media content instance files.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of generating the media content instance file names using the media content instance guide data.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the media content instance file name includes channel number, media content instance title, and the source of the media content instance.

42. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of buffering analog broadcast media content instances, received at a communications interface, as digitally compressed media content instances.

43. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of buffering an analog signal received at a connector from a consumer electronics device, as a digitally compressed media content instance.

44. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of buffering digital broadcast media content instances, received at a communications interface, as digitally compressed media content instances.

45. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of buffering digital media-on-demand media content instances, received at a communications interface from a remote server, as digitally compressed media content instances.

46. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of buffering digital media content instances, received at a digital communications port from a local network,

as digitally compressed media content instances.

47. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of buffering digital media content instances, received at a digital communications port from a local device, as digitally compressed media content instances.

48. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of maintaining a status flag in the management file wherein the status flag is configured as temporary for a buffered media content instance that is not designated for permanent recording.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, further comprising the steps of configuring the status flag of the management file for a buffered media content instance as permanent when the user requests that said media content instance be permanently recorded, and causing the permanently recorded media content instance to have a permanent designation in a file allocation table in response to having status flag of the corresponding management file configured as permanent, such that the buffer space storing the permanently recorded media content instance becomes designated as non-buffer space.

50. (Original) A media content recording method in a subscriber network television system, comprising the steps of:

      buffering media content instances into a buffer space;

      representing the media content instances in the buffer space as a linked list of management files in the memory;

      tracking the duration of the buffered media content instance, wherein the

duration of the media content instance corresponds to hard disk space, wherein the management files comprise the locations of data for said files and locations to a previously created management file and to a subsequently created management file;

configuring each of the management files as a data structure that includes media content instance guide data, a buffering start time, an active playback location within the media content instance in the buffer space, a status flag, and a media content instance file name;

using and store the scheduled stop time of each of the media content instances from the media content instance guide data to determine when to close the management file for an ended media content instance and open a new management file for a next media content instance to be downloaded to the buffer space;

receiving media content information from a remote server, wherein the media content information comprises a scheduled media content instance start time and a scheduled media content instance end time;

tracking when the buffering of the media content instance starts;

determining the media content instance duration by subtracting the media content instance buffering start time from the scheduled media content instance end time;

organizing a plurality of management files as a linked list of the management files comprising the locations of data for said files and locations to a previously created management file and to a subsequently created management file;

using the receipt time of a media content instance into the buffer space by using

15

the start time as indicated by an internal clock;

configuring the media content instances as media content instance files;

identifying the media content instance files by file names;

generating the media content instance file names using the media content

instance guide data, wherein each of the media content instance file

names include channel number, media content instance title, and the

source of the media content instance;

accessing the media content instances by the media content instance file

names;

buffering analog broadcast media content instances, received at a

communications interface, as digitally compressed media content

instances;

buffering an analog signal received at a connector from a consumer electronics

device, as a digitally compressed media content instance;

buffering digital broadcast media content instances, received at a

communications interface, as digitally compressed media content

instances;

buffering digital media-on-demand media content instances, received at a

communications interface from a remote server, as digitally compressed

media content instances;

buffering digital media content instances, received at a digital communications

port from a local network, as digitally compressed media content

instances;

buffering digital media content instances, received at a digital communications

port from a local device, as digitally compressed media content

instances;

maintaining the status flag in the management file wherein the status flag is configured as temporary for a buffered media content instance that is not designated for permanent recording;

configuring the status flag of the management file for a buffered media content instance as permanent when the user requests that said media content instance be permanently recorded; and

causing the permanently recorded media content instance to have a permanent designation in a file allocation table in response to having the status flag of the corresponding management file configured as permanent, such that the buffer space storing the permanently recorded media content instance becomes designated as non-buffer space.